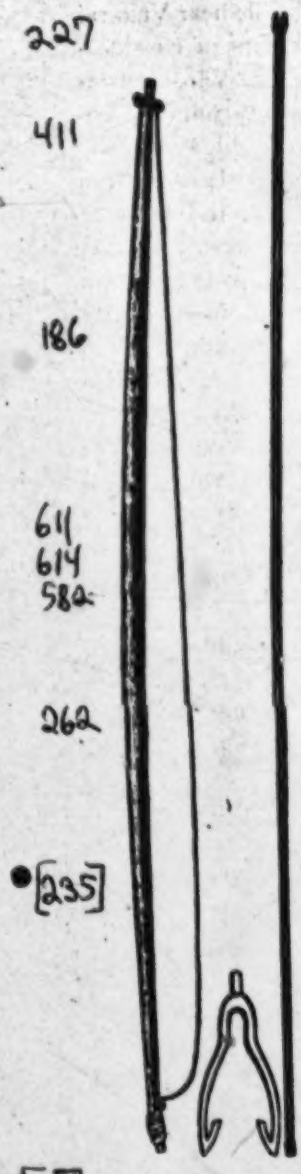
1;Seligmann & Seligmann E-5 (1907-1908) 1911
AX5 Vedda AX5



[113] Fig. 13. Verda bow and harpoon × 1/12.
Iron harpoon head × 1/2.

fig. 2, while Mr Storey's book contains an excellent photograph of these people spearing fish[1].

The length of the Verda bow and harpoon shaft shown in fig. 13 are 208 cm. and 220 cm. respectively. The bow is an extremely powerful weapon, its diameter at its thickest part being about 3·3 cm.

In spite of the perfectly obvious fact that the majority of the Verdas are more Tamil than Vedda the old Vedda pride of blood survives and some of the older Verdas denied that they intermarried with Tamils.

Children of marriages in which the *waruge* of the contracting parties were known took their father's *waruge*, but it seemed to be a matter of no account whether or no individuals of the same *waruge* intermarried.

Everyone avoids eating fowl and all our informants both male and female denied that they ever ate it, though often suggesting that others might do so. On the other hand, one informant who bred fowls for sale summed the matter up with an emphatic "Veddas don't eat fowls." No reason was given for this abstinence but all agreed that their ancestors had not eaten fowl, though the majority of our informants admitted that they would breed fowls for sale and kill and prepare fowls for others to eat. Beef was said to be generally avoided though it was not

[1] *Hunting and Shooting in Ceylon*, London, 1907, p. 330.

4: Lewis N-5 (ca. 1906-1918) 1919
AX5 Vedda AX5

235 Of fowls, I observed a remarkable diversity of breed. They may be classed as—

(*a*) The Bantam type, with the medium length of saddle and conspicuous *erect* tail.

(*b*) The wild type, with long saddle and large *drooping* tail.

(*c*) The Cochin-China type, with feathered tarsi.

In the first of these the crow of the cocks is quite distinct, it being what I call a shrill falsetto. In (*b*), what I call the wild type, the plumage of the males approximates that of our jungle fowl, both in its beauty of colouring and in the disposition of the tail feathers. The hens, too, were more commonly brown than in the Bantam type, where white is the prevailing colour of this sex. In (*c*) the feathered leg is the outstanding characteristic. Here the size of bird is larger than in the first group, but shorter in the back than in what I call the wild type. In no case did I find birds with yellow combs, though the early presence of the comb in cock chickens is particularly noticeable. It would appear, therefore, that the domestic fowl has here developed characteristics that would imply crossing from three stocks, one of which is analogous to, if not identical with, the wild bird. On the other hand, the unmistakable crow of the wild bird is different from that of any of the village races.

Of wild animals, the following is a brief list of observed
136 mammalia:—

(1) *The Gray Wanduroo.*—Scarce in the Maha Wedirata, plentiful towards the sea coast in the Panawa Pattu and in the valley of the Kumbukkan river. Probably this species was common all through the Vedda country, but as its flesh was eaten it became exterminated, except in uninhabited places.

(2) *The "Red Monkey" or Rilawa* (Macacus pileatus).—Not common. I found a few in the valley of the Heda-oya and near Lahugala.

(3) *The Loris* (Loris gracilis).—Very rare. I did not see a single example, but I was told by the people that it was known near the "Westminster Abbey" range of hills, and again near Monaragala.